

Design and Implementation of Perturbation Observer based Robust Passivity-based Control for VSC-MTDC Systems Considering Offshore Wind Power Integration

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Abstract

With the increasing penetration of renewable energy sources especially wind power, voltage source converter based multi-terminal high voltage direct current (VSC-MTDC) systems are starting to be commissioned. However, concentrated integration of large scale wind power demands stronger robustness against power fluctuation and system disturbances to increase the reliability of the whole system. This paper proposes a perturbation observer based robust passivity-based control (PORPC) for VSC-MTDC systems connected to an offshore wind farm to meet the demands. The aggregated effect of system nonlinearities, parameter uncertainties, unmodelled dynamics and external disturbances includes grid faults and time-varying wind power output is estimated by a linear perturbation observer (PO) and fully compensated by a passive controller, thus no accurate VSC-MTDC system model is required. The proposed scheme attempts to regulate DC voltage and reactive power at the rectifier side, as well as active power and reactive power at the inverters side connected to an offshore wind farm. Besides, a DC link voltage droop controller is introduced so as to provide immediate response to the grid unbalance situation. Moreover, a noticeable robustness against parameter uncertainties can be achieved as no accurate system model is needed. Case studies are carried out to compare the performance of PORPC to other typical approaches. Lastly, a hardware-in-the-loop (HIL) test is undertaken via dSPACE simulators which validates its implementation feasibility.

1 Introduction

Large-scale integration of offshore wind power to the main grid presents a number of technical, economical, and environmental challenges [1]. With the capacity and distance of offshore wind farm increases, conventional AC transmission system displays serious drawbacks, e.g., long AC cables usually produce significant amount of capacitive current which often limits the transmission capacity

29 and requires extra reactive power compensation. Besides, AC connections re-
30 quire to be operated synchronously between the wind farm and the power grid.
31 Therefore, all faults occur in either grid are propagated in the other [2].

32 Currently, line-commutated converter (LCC) based HVDC (LCC-HVDC) is
33 regarded as a mature technology on overhead lines and an economical solution
34 with higher power ratings. However, for connecting offshore wind farms, its
35 disadvantages are obvious: coarser reactive power control and cannot control
36 the active power and reactive power independently, requiring strong AC power
37 source to maintain operation and own black-start capability, requiring AC&DC
38 harmonic filter to eliminate generated harmonic distortion. Moreover, extra
39 auxiliary equipments like filter and power source comparing with VSC can-
40 not meet the space requirements of offshore substation application. Therefore,
41 there is no LCC-HVDC offshore substation in operation. In contrast, voltage
42 source converter based high voltage direct current (VSC-HVDC) technology us-
43 ing pulse-width modulation (PWM) with lower harmonic distortion of AC-side
44 voltage, as well as fewer auxiliary filters, attracts noticeable attention around
45 the globe. It is more suitable for offshore wind farm connection, in which ac-
46 tive and reactive power can be independently controlled and VSCs are able to
47 operate in weak or even passive networks [3]. In the Nanao project [4] which
48 is the world's first multi-terminal VSC-HVDC transmission project in opera-
49 tion. The project is designed with ratings of $\pm 160\text{kV}/200\text{MW}-100\text{MW}-50\text{MW}$
50 to transmit dispersed, intermittent wind power generated on Nanao island into
51 the mainland. A crucial task of VSC-HVDC system is how to design proper
52 control schemes to achieve satisfactory system performance.

53 In general, linear control methods using proportional-integral (PI) loops are
54 widely adopted for VSC-HVDC systems. However, the VSC-HVDC systems
55 with wind farm connection are highly nonlinear resulted from converters, wind
56 turbine aerodynamics, highly stochastic wind speed, and power grids with var-
57 ious system uncertainties like power angle and uncertain output impedance.
58 Hence, their control performance may be dramatically degraded as its control
59 parameters are determined from one-point linearization model [5]. In order to
60 tackle this thorny problem, robust controller for VSC-HVDC systems is required
61 to ensure a consistent control performance under various system uncertainties,
62 such as adaptive backstepping [6] and robust sliding-mode control [7], which
63 have been developed to greatly improve system robustness via estimation com-
64 pensation of unknown constant or slow-varying system parameters. However,
65 the parameter estimates via these estimation functions may drift in the presence
66 of measurement noise and greatly increase the energy consumption.

67 Furthermore, the above applications are merely applied to two-terminal
68 VSC-HVDC systems. In the multi-terminal VSC-HVDC (VSC-MTDC) sys-
69 tem framework, not only the DC voltage and power transmission stability need
70 to be self-controlled, but also an appropriate coordination among different ter-
71 minals are needed. Thus far, several coordinated control schemes have been
72 developed for VSC-MTDC systems, such as adaptive droop control [8], which
73 can share the burden according to the available headroom of each convert-
74 er station. Meanwhile, an adaptive backstepping droop controller is proposed

in [9], which can adaptively tune the droop gains to enhance control performance of traditional droop controllers by considering DC cable dynamics. Moreover, power-dependent droop-based control strategy is proposed in [10] so as to offer enhanced dynamic responses during AC/DC faults and large power scheduling changes.

Generally speaking, the aforementioned approaches merely consider the control problems as a pure mathematical issue, while the physical/engineering background of the given object is somehow ignored. The passivity-based control (PC) offers a powerful tool to beneficially exploit the physical property of a given engineering problem, upon energy interconnection and assignment, to achieve a satisfactory transient responses with relatively low control efforts [11]. However, conventional PC [12] is highly sensitive to the uncertain system parameters and requires a detailed system model. To handle such issue, this paper proposes a perturbation observer based robust passivity-based control (PORPC) scheme for an N -terminal VSC-MTDC system, in which the combinatorial effect of interaction between different terminals, unmodelled dynamics and unknown time-varying external disturbances is aggregated into a perturbation, which is estimated online by a high-gain state and perturbation observer (HGSPO) [13, 14] and can be represented as a chained-integrator system associated with matched nonlinearities and disturbances. Moreover, PORPC does not require an accurate VSC-MTDC model and only the DC voltage, active and reactive power need to be measured. Furthermore, it provides a faster transient response with low control efforts as passification [12] is adopted to carefully reshape the system damping.

The main novelties and contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

- The active/reactive power control can achieve reliable and robust decoupling control with fast responses in randomly time-varying wind power outputs and severe grid faults;
- Compared to reference [14], there are three improvements listed as follows, (1) a DC link voltage droop controller with appropriate droop constant is introduced into PORPC of each terminal, which can provide immediate response to the grid unbalanced conditions, (2) The wind farm modelling is considered during the controller design process, in which the controller parameters are modified during this case, (3) The implementation feasibility of PORPC is validated through several case studies on Simulink and real-time hardware in-loop (HIL) test based on dSPACE platform;
- The DC voltage regulation control aims to rapidly compensate various DC cable modelling uncertainties, such as unpredictable power losses, inaccurate series resistance and inductance, and external disturbances resulted from randomly time-varying wind speed conditions;

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section II, the modelling of the VSC-MTDC system is presented. In Section III, the PORPC-based rec-

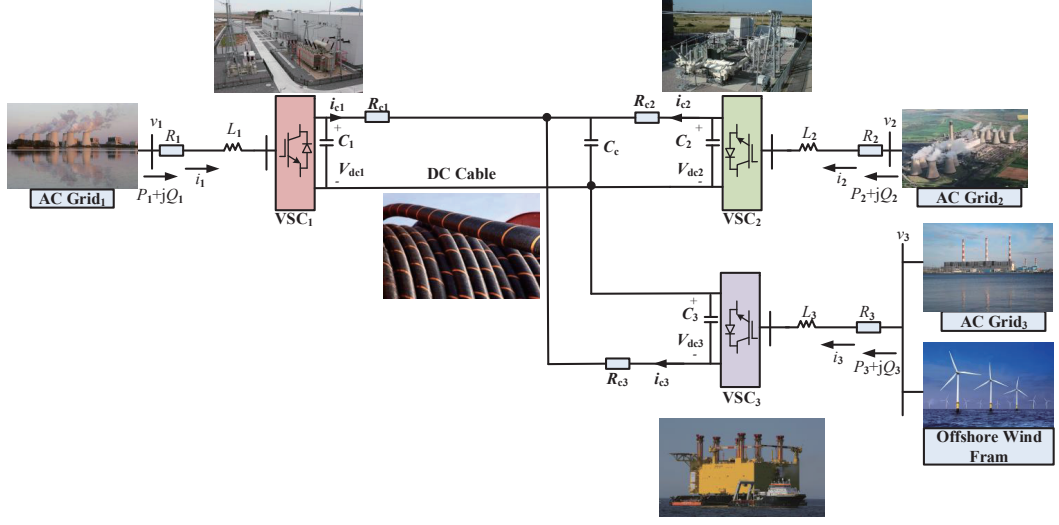


Figure 1: The configuration of a three-terminal radial VSC-MTDC system connecting to an offshore wind farm.

119 tifier controller and inverter controller are developed. Simulation and HIL test
 120 results are provided in Section IV and V, respectively. Finally, conclusions are
 121 summarized in Section VI.

122 2 VSC-MTDC System with Offshore Wind Far- 123 m Modelling

124 The configuration of a three-terminal radial VSC-MTDC system connected to
 125 an offshore wind farm is illustrated by Fig. 1, in which the rectifier regulates
 126 the DC voltage and reactive power of AC grid₁, while one inverter regulates the
 127 active and reactive power of the AC grid₂ and another inverter regulates the
 128 active and reactive power of the offshore wind farm with AC grid₃. Only the
 129 balanced condition is considered, e.g., the three phases have identical parameters
 130 and their voltages and currents have the same amplitude while each phase shifts
 131 120° between themselves. On the i th AC terminal of the three-terminal VSC-
 132 MTDC system, the system dynamics of VSC can be expressed at the angular
 133 frequency ω_i as [8]

$$\begin{cases} \dot{I}_{di} = -\frac{R_i}{L_i} I_{di} + \omega_i I_{qi} + \frac{V_{sqi}}{L_i} + \frac{u_{di}}{L_i} \\ \dot{I}_{qi} = -\frac{R_i}{L_i} I_{qi} + \omega_i I_{di} + \frac{V_{sdi}}{L_i} + \frac{u_{qi}}{L_i} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

134 where I_{di} and I_{qi} are the i th d -axis and q -axis AC currents; V_{sdi} and V_{sqi} are
 135 the i th d -axis and q -axis AC voltages, in the synchronous frame $V_{sdi} = 0$ and
 136 $V_{sqi} = V_s$; u_{di} and u_{qi} are the i th d -axis and q -axis control inputs; and R_i

137 and L_i are the aggregated resistance and inductance of the i th AC terminal,
 138 respectively.

139 By neglecting the resistance of VSC reactors and switch losses, the instan-
 140 taneous active power P_i and reactive power Q_i on the i th AC terminal can be
 141 calculated as follows

$$\begin{cases} P_i = \frac{3}{2}(V_{sqi}I_{qi} + V_{sdi}I_{di}) = \frac{3}{2}V_{sqi}I_{qi} \\ Q_i = \frac{3}{2}(V_{sqi}I_{di} - V_{sdi}I_{qi}) = \frac{3}{2}V_{sqi}I_{di} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

142 The DC link dynamics can be expressed by

$$\begin{cases} \dot{V}_{dci} = \frac{1}{V_{dci}C_i}P_i - \frac{1}{C_i}I_{ci} \\ \dot{I}_{ci} = \frac{1}{L_{ci}}V_{dci} - \frac{R_{ci}}{L_{ci}}I_{ci} - \frac{1}{L_{ci}}V_{cc} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

The topology of a three-terminal VSC-MTDC system is illustrated by Fig.1, in
 which the dynamics of the common DC capacitor can be obtained according to
 the Kirchhoff's current law as

$$\dot{V}_{cc} = \frac{1}{C_c} \sum_{i=1}^3 I_{ci} \quad (4)$$

143 where C_i and C_c are the i th DC link capacitance and the common DC capaci-
 144 tance which voltages are denoted by V_{dci} and V_{cc} ; R_{ci} and L_{ci} are the resistance
 145 and inductance of the i th DC cable; and I_{ci} is the current through the i th DC
 146 cable. The featured DC cable model corresponds to a simplified equivalence of a
 147 cable connection, because an overhead line could be represented by an inductive
 148 element [3]. This is a reasonable approximation for the purpose of control sys-
 149 tems analysis. To this end, the global model of the three-terminal VSC-MTDC
 150 system can be written as follows

$$\begin{cases} \dot{I}_{di} = -\frac{R_i}{L_i}I_{di} + \omega_i I_{qi} + \frac{V_{sqi}}{L_i} + \frac{u_{di}}{L_i} \\ \dot{I}_{qi} = -\frac{R_i}{L_i}I_{qi} + \omega_i I_{di} + \frac{u_{qi}}{L_i} \\ \dot{V}_{dci} = \frac{3V_{sqi}I_{qi}}{2V_{dci}C_i} - \frac{1}{C_i}I_{ci} \\ \dot{I}_{ci} = \frac{1}{L_{ci}}V_{dci} - \frac{R_{ci}}{L_{ci}}I_{ci} - \frac{1}{L_{ci}}V_{cc} \\ \dot{V}_{cc} = \frac{1}{C_c} \sum_{i=1}^N I_{ci} \end{cases}, i = 1, \dots, 3 \quad (5)$$

151 Besides normal grid models which are usually considered as fixed power
 152 sources that connect to the VSC-MTDC model, the grid with high wind power
 153 penetration (20%) is considered as well. The offshore wind farm simulated in
 154 this paper adopts an aggregated model such that a lumped wind turbine is used
 155 to represent the whole wind farm [15]. In particular, the wind turbine dynamics
 156 is represented by a two-mass model while the blade pitch angle is assumed to
 157 be a constant. According to wind turbine aerodynamics, the mechanical power
 158 P_m extracted from wind is described as follows [16, 17]

$$P_m = \frac{1}{2}\rho A_r c_p(\lambda, \theta) v_\omega^3 \quad (6)$$

where P_m is the power extracted from the wind; ρ is air density; A_r is the area covered by the rotor; v_ω is the wind speed; and c_p is the power coefficient; θ is the pitch angle of rotor blades; λ is the tip speed ratio which $\lambda = \frac{v_t}{v_\omega}$ with v_t is blade tip speed [18, 19]. Here c_p can be described by

$$c_p(\lambda, \theta) = 0.73 \left(\frac{151}{\lambda_i} - 0.58\theta - 0.002\theta^{2.14} - 13.2 \right) e^{-18.4/\lambda_i} \quad (7)$$

where

$$\lambda_i = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\lambda - 0.02\theta} - \frac{0.003}{\theta^3 + 1}} \quad (8)$$

3 PORPC Design for the VSC-MTDC System

3.1 Rectifier controller design

Denote the first VSC as the rectifier such that DC voltage V_{dc1} and reactive power Q_1 can be regulated to their references V_{dc1}^* and Q_1^* , respectively. Define the tracking error

$$\mathbf{e}_1 = [e_{11}, e_{12}]^T = [V_{dc1} - V_{dc1}^*, Q_1 - Q_1^*]^T,$$

Differentiate \mathbf{e}_1 until control inputs u_{q1} and u_{d1} appear explicitly, gives

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{e}_{11} &= \frac{3V_{sq1}}{2C_1V_{dc1}} \left[-\frac{R_1}{L_1}I_{q1} + \omega_1 I_{d1} - \frac{I_{q1}}{C_1V_{dc1}} \left(\frac{3V_{sq1}I_{q1}}{2V_{dc1}} - I_{c1} \right) \right] + \frac{3V_{sq1}}{2C_1L_1V_{dc1}}u_{q1} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{C_1L_{c1}}(V_{dc1} - R_{c1}I_{c1} - V_{cc}) - \ddot{V}_{dc1}^* \\ \dot{e}_{12} &= \frac{3V_{sq1}}{2} \left(-\frac{R_1}{L_1}I_{d1} + \omega_1 I_{q1} + \frac{V_{sq1}}{L_1} \right) + \frac{3V_{sq1}}{2L_1}u_{d1} - \dot{Q}_1^* \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

It can be seen that system (9) includes two decoupled SISO subsystems, in which V_{dc1} is controlled by u_{q1} and Q_1 is controlled by u_{d1} , respectively.

The perturbations of system (9) are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_{11}(\cdot) &= \frac{3V_{sq1}}{2C_1V_{dc1}} \left[-\frac{R_1}{L_1}I_{q1} + \omega_1 I_{d1} - \frac{I_{q1}}{C_1V_{dc1}} \left(\frac{3V_{sq1}I_{q1}}{2V_{dc1}} - I_{c1} \right) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{C_1L_{c1}}(V_{dc1} - R_{c1}I_{c1} - V_{cc}) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{3V_{sq1}}{2C_1L_1V_{dc1}} - b_{11} \right) u_{q1} \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_{12}(\cdot) &= \frac{3V_{sq1}}{2} \left(-\frac{R_1}{L_1}I_{d1} + \omega_1 I_{q1} + \frac{V_{sq1}}{L_1} \right) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{3V_{sq1}}{2L_1} - b_{12} \right) u_{d1} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

173 And system (9) can be expressed by

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{e}_{11} = \Psi_{11}(\cdot) + b_{11}u_{q1} - \ddot{V}_{dc1}^* \\ \dot{e}_{12} = \Psi_{12}(\cdot) + b_{12}u_{d1} - \dot{Q}_1^* \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

174 where b_{11} and b_{12} are constant control gains.

175 A third-order HGSPPO is designed to estimate $\Psi_{11}(\cdot)$ as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{V}}_{dc1} = \frac{\alpha_{11}}{\epsilon}(V_{dc1} - \hat{V}_{dc1}) + \hat{\dot{V}}_{dc1} \\ \dot{\hat{V}}_{dc1} = \hat{\Psi}_{11}(\cdot) + \frac{\alpha_{12}}{\epsilon^2}(V_{dc1} - \hat{V}_{dc1}) + b_{11}u_{q1} \\ \dot{\hat{\Psi}}_{11}(\cdot) = \frac{\alpha_{13}}{\epsilon^3}(V_{dc1} - \hat{V}_{dc1}) \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

176 Then a second-order high-gain perturbation observer (HGPO) is designed to
177 estimate $\Psi_{12}(\cdot)$ as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{Q}}_1 = \hat{\Psi}_{12}(\cdot) + \frac{\alpha'_{11}}{\epsilon}(Q_1 - \hat{Q}_1) + b_{12}u_{d1} \\ \dot{\hat{\Psi}}_{12}(\cdot) = \frac{\alpha'_{12}}{\epsilon^2}(Q_1 - \hat{Q}_1) \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

178 where α_{11} , α_{12} , α_{13} , α'_{11} , and α'_{12} are observer gains, with $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$.

179 The PORPC for system (9) using the estimate of states and perturbations
180 is designed as

$$\begin{cases} u_{q1} = b_{11}^{-1}[-\hat{\Psi}_{11}(\cdot) - k_{11}(\hat{V}_{dc1} - V_{dc1}^*) \\ \quad - k_{12}(\hat{V}_{dc1} - \dot{V}_{dc1}^*) + \dot{V}_{dc1}^* + \nu_{11}] \\ u_{d1} = b_{12}^{-1}(-\hat{\Psi}_{12}(\cdot) - k'_{11}(\hat{Q}_1 - Q_1^*) + \dot{Q}_1^* + \nu_{12}) \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

181 where k_{11} , k_{12} and k'_{11} are feedback control gains and $\mathbf{V}_1 = [\nu_{11}, \nu_{12}]^T$ is an
182 additional system input.

183 Choose the output of system (9) as $\mathbf{Y}_1 = [Y_{11}, Y_{12}]^T = [\dot{V}_{dc1} - \dot{V}_{dc1}^*, Q_1 -$
184 $Q_1^*]^T$. Then let $\mathbf{V}_1 = [-\lambda_{11}Y_{11}, -\lambda_{12}Y_{12}]^T$, where λ_{11} and λ_{12} are some positive
185 constants to inject an extra system damping into system (9). Based on the
186 passivity theory, the closed-loop system is output strictly passive from output
187 \mathbf{Y}_1 to input \mathbf{V}_1 [11].

Constant gains b_{11} and b_{12} must satisfy the following inequalities to guarantee the convergence of estimation error when the VSC operates within its normal region:

$$\begin{aligned} 3V_{sq1}/[2C_1L_1V_{dc1}(1 - \theta_{11})] &\geq b_{11} \\ &\geq 3V_{sq1}/[2C_1L_1V_{dc1}(1 + \theta_{11})] \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

$$3V_{sq1}/[2L_1(1 - \theta_{12})] \geq b_{12} \geq 3V_{sq1}/[2L_1(1 + \theta_{12})] \quad (17)$$

188 where $0 < \theta_{11} < 1$ and $0 < \theta_{12} < 1$.

189 During the most severe disturbance, both DC voltage and reactive power
190 reduce from their initial values to around zero within a short period of time
191 Δ . Thus the boundary values of the estimate of states and perturbations are
192 limited as $|\hat{V}_{dc1}| \leq |V_{dc1}^*|$, $|\dot{\hat{V}}_{dc1}| \leq |V_{dc1}^*|/\Delta$, $|\hat{\Psi}_{11}(\cdot)| \leq |V_{dc1}^*|/\Delta^2$, $|\hat{Q}_1| \leq |Q_1^*|$,
193 and $|\hat{\Psi}_{12}(\cdot)| \leq |Q_1^*|/\Delta$, respectively.

3.2 Inverter controller design

The second and third VSCs are chosen as the inverters which regulate active power P_k and reactive power Q_k to their references P_k^* and Q_k^* , respectively, where $k = 2, 3$. Define tracking error with droop controller embedded [20]

$$\mathbf{e}_k = [e_{k1}, e_{k2}]^T = [P_k - P_k^* = R(V_{\text{dck}} - V_{\text{dck}}^*), Q_k - Q_k^*]^T,$$

where $R = \frac{P_{\text{ACrated}k}}{V_{\text{DCrated}k}\rho_k}$ with ρ_k denotes the droop constant, $P_{\text{ACrated}k}$ is the rated power and $V_{\text{DCrated}k}$ is the rated DC voltage of the k th DC terminal.

REMARKS 1. The values of the droop constant are designed according to the ratings of the converters. For a fixed droop scheme it is usual to choose $\rho_i P_{\text{ACrated}i} = \rho_j P_{\text{ACrated}j}$, $\forall i, j$. [8]. In this paper, as 20% wind power is penetrated into terminal 3, the rating of terminal 3 is considered as 120% of terminal 2. Therefore, the droop constant of terminal 2 is chosen to be 85% of the terminal 3 considering power fluctuation of wind generation. After determining the stability region of MTDC system through modal analysis [8], the value droop constant of terminal 2 and terminal 3 are selected to be 0.035 and 0.0295, respectively. Since the droop constant is unequal, the ones with higher values would have dominant contribution from active power control loop. Smaller would ensure lesser deviation in DC link voltages.

Differentiate \mathbf{e}_k until control inputs u_{qk} and u_{dk} appear explicitly, it yields

$$\begin{cases} \dot{e}_{k1} = \frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2} \left(-\frac{R_k}{L_k} I_{qk} - \omega_k I_{dk} \right) + \frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2L_k} u_{qk} - \dot{P}_k^* \\ \dot{e}_{k2} = \frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2} \left(-\frac{R_k}{L_k} I_{dk} + \omega_k I_{qk} + \frac{V_{\text{sq}k}}{L_k} \right) + \frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2L_k} u_{dk} - \dot{Q}_k^* \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

It can be seen that system (18) includes two decoupled SISO subsystems, in which P_k is controlled by u_{qk} and Q_k is controlled by u_{dk} , respectively.

The perturbations of system (18) are defined as

$$\Psi_{k1}(\cdot) = \frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2} \left(-\frac{R_k}{L_k} I_{qk} - \omega_k I_{dk} \right) + \left(\frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2L_k} - b_{k1} \right) u_{qk} \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_{k2}(\cdot) &= \frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2} \left(-\frac{R_k}{L_k} I_{dk} + \omega_k I_{qk} + \frac{V_{\text{sq}k}}{L_k} \right) \\ &+ \left(\frac{3V_{\text{sq}k}}{2L_k} - b_{k2} \right) u_{dk} \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

And system (18) can be expressed by

$$\begin{cases} \dot{e}_{k1} = \Psi_{k1}(\cdot) + b_{k1} u_{qk} - \dot{P}_k^* \\ \dot{e}_{k2} = \Psi_{k2}(\cdot) + b_{k2} u_{dk} - \dot{Q}_k^* \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

where b_{k1} and b_{k2} are constant control gains.

221 A second-order HGPO is designed to estimate $\Psi_{k1}(\cdot)$ as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{P}}_k = \hat{\Psi}_{k1}(\cdot) + \frac{\alpha_{k1}}{\epsilon}(P_k - \hat{P}_k) + b_{k1}u_{qk} \\ \dot{\hat{\Psi}}_{k1}(\cdot) = \frac{\alpha'_{k2}}{\epsilon^2}(P_k - \hat{P}_k) \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

222 Similarly, a second-order HGPO is designed to estimate $\Psi_{k2}(\cdot)$ as

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\hat{Q}}_k = \hat{\Psi}_{k2}(\cdot) + \frac{\alpha'_{k1}}{\epsilon}(Q_k - \hat{Q}_k) + b_{k2}u_{dk} \\ \dot{\hat{\Psi}}_{k2}(\cdot) = \frac{\alpha'_{k2}}{\epsilon^2}(Q_k - \hat{Q}_k) \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

223 where α_{k1} , α_{k2} , α'_{k1} , and α'_{k2} are observer gains.

224 The PORPC for system (18) using the estimate of states and perturbations
225 is designed as

$$\begin{cases} u_{qk} = b_{k1}^{-1}(-\hat{\Psi}_{k1}(\cdot) - k_{k1}(\hat{P}_k - P_k^*) + \dot{P}_k^* + \nu_{k1}) \\ u_{dk} = b_{k2}^{-1}(-\hat{\Psi}_{k2}(\cdot) - k'_{k1}(\hat{Q}_k - Q_k^*) + \dot{Q}_k^* + \nu_{k2}) \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

226 where k_{k1} and k'_{k1} are feedback control gains and $\mathbf{V}_k = [\nu_{k1}, \nu_{k2}]^T$ is an addi-
227 tional system input.

228 Choose the output of system (18) as $\mathbf{Y}_k = [Y_{k1}, Y_{k2}]^T = [P_k - P_k^*, Q_k - Q_k^*]^T$.
229 Let $\mathbf{V}_k = [-\lambda_{k1}Y_{k1}, -\lambda_{k2}Y_{k2}]^T$, where λ_{k1} and λ_{k2} are some positive constants
230 to inject an extra system damping into system (18). And the closed-loop system
231 is output strictly passive from output \mathbf{Y}_k to input \mathbf{V}_k .

Similarly, constant gains b_{k1} and b_{k2} must satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} 3V_{sqk}/[2L_k(1 - \theta_{k1})] &\geq b_{k1} \geq 3V_{sqk}/[2L_k(1 + \theta_{k1})] \\ 3V_{sqk}/[2L_k(1 - \theta_{k2})] &\geq b_{k2} \geq 3V_{sqk}/[2L_k(1 + \theta_{k2})] \end{aligned}$$

232 where $0 < \theta_{k1} < 1$ and $0 < \theta_{k2} < 1$.

233 Again, the boundary values of the estimate of states and perturbations are
234 limited by $|\hat{P}_k| \leq |P_k^*|$, $|\hat{\Psi}_{k1}(\cdot)| \leq |P_k^*|/\Delta$, $|\hat{Q}_k| \leq |Q_k^*|$, and $|\hat{\Psi}_{k2}(\cdot)| \leq |Q_k^*|/\Delta$,
235 respectively. The overall control structure of PORPC (15) and (24) is illustrated
236 by Fig. 2, in which only the measurement of active power P_k and reactive power
237 Q_k at the inverter side, as well as the DC voltage V_{dc1} and reactive power Q_1
238 at the rectifier side is needed for the controller and observer design. Note that
239 their references are given by the power system operators to satisfy the practical
240 transmission of electrical power or maintain power system stability through
241 VSC-MTDC systems. Lastly, the obtained control inputs are modulated by the
242 pulse width modulation (PWM) technique [21].

243 4 Case Studies

244 PORPC is applied on a three-terminal radial VSC-MTDC system demonstrat-
245 ed by Fig. 1, the corresponding controller parameters are tuned to improve the
246 robustness in the presence of time-varying wind farm power outputs and weak

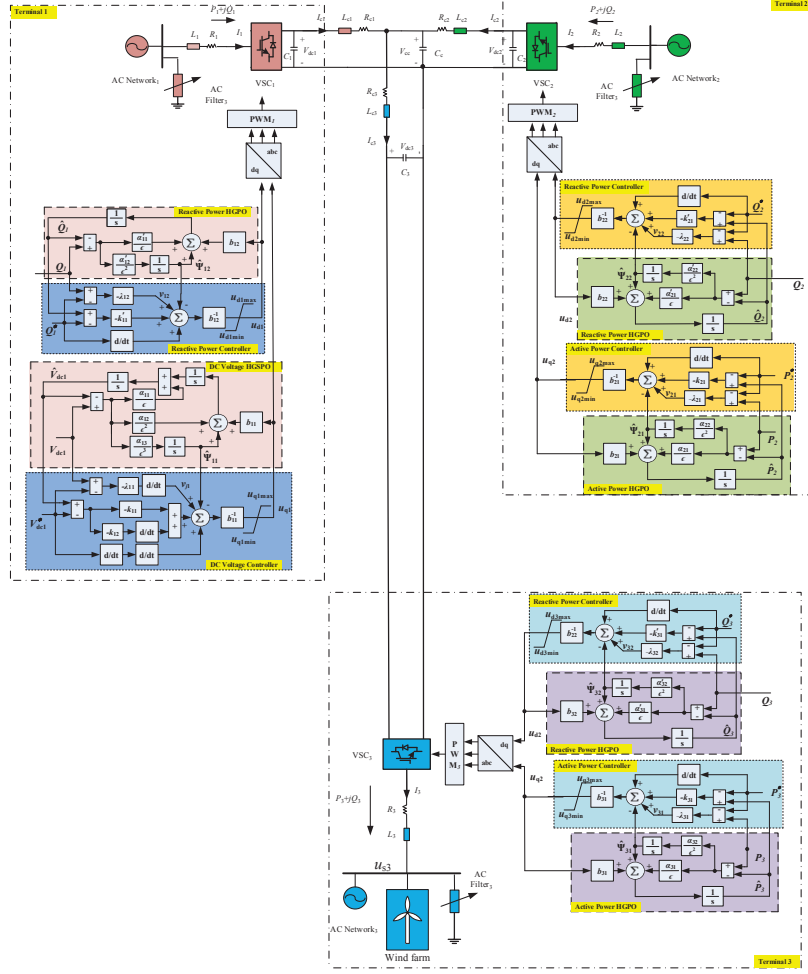


Figure 2: Overall control structure of PORPC for the VSC-MTDC systems.

247 grids connection. The three-terminal radial VSC-MTDC system parameters and
 248 the control parameters of PORPC are given in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.
 249 The control performance of PORPC is evaluated under various operating conditions
 250 in a wide neighborhood of initial operating points, and compared to that
 251 of PI control [5, 22] and PC [12]. Due to the security requirement of converters,
 252 the control inputs are bounded as $|u_{q1}| \leq 0.8$ per unit (p.u.), $|u_{d1}| \leq 0.6$ p.u.,
 253 $|u_{qk}| \leq 0.8$ p.u., and $|u_{dk}| \leq 0.6$ p.u., respectively [23].

254 **Remark 2.** For the observer gains shown in Table 1, they usually range
 255 from $10^3 - 10^5$ to provide a proper trade-off between estimation speed and peak
 256 value [14]. A larger observer gain will accelerate the estimation rate but also
 257 produce a higher peak value at the moment when system operation condition

Table 1: System parameters used in the simulation

AC grids frequency	f	50 Hz
AC grids base voltage	V_{ACbase}	100 kV
DC base voltage	V_{DCbase}	200 kV
System base power	S_{base}	100 MVA
AC grids resistance (25 km)	R_1, R_2, R_3	0.05 Ω /km
AC grids inductance (25 km)	L_1, L_2, L_3	0.026 mH/km
DC cable resistance (50 km)	R_0	0.21 Ω /km
DC bus capacitance	C_1, C_2, C_3	11.94 μ F
Common DC capacitance	C_c	19.95 μ F

Table 2: Control parameters used in the three-terminal VSC-MTDC system.

Rectifier controller parameters			
$k_{11} = 120$	$k_{12} = 25$	$\lambda_{11} = 5$	$b_{11} = 2$
$b_{12} = 0.05$	$k'_{11} = 75$	$\lambda_{12} = 5$	
Rectifier observer parameters			
$\alpha_{11} = 1250$	$\alpha_{12} = 5.2 \times 10^5$	$\alpha_{13} = 6.7 \times 10^7$	$\alpha'_{11} = 420$
$\alpha'_{12} = 5 \times 10^4$	$\Delta = 0.05$ s	$\epsilon = 0.1$	
Inverter controller parameters, $k = 2, 3$			
$k_{k1} = 75$	$k'_{k1} = 75$	$b_{k1} = 0.1$	$b_{k2} = 0.1$
$\lambda_{k1} = 6$	$\lambda_{k2} = 6$	$\rho_k = 0.04$	
Inverter observer parameters, $k = 2, 3$			
$\alpha_{k1} = 410$	$\alpha_{k2} = 5 \times 10^4$	$\alpha'_{k1} = 420$	$\alpha'_{k2} = 4 \times 10^4$
$\Delta = 0.05$ s	$\epsilon = 0.1$		

varies, while a smaller observer gain would not effectively track the output thus degrade the estimation performance significantly. This paper chooses them to be 1250 through trial-and-error among this range. For the control gains, they are chosen as so to provide a proper trade-off between the control costs and tracking speed. A too large control gain will rapidly track the output but also result in higher control costs, while a too small control gain might not control the output fast enough but with low control costs. This paper select them to be 75 for active power though trial-and-error, respectively. Note that a fast active power is preferred here as it is important to respond quickly for the purpose of power support.

4.1 Power regulation

The initial active power of the converter station 2 and 3 are both 40 MW. At 0.5 s, the active power reference of converter station 2 is decreased to 30 MW. And after 0.3 s, the active power reference of converter station 2 is further decreased to 20 MW. Meanwhile, the active power reference of converter 3 is increased to 50 MW at 1.7 s. After 0.3 s, the active power reference of converter 2 is further increased to 60 MW. While DC voltage of the rectifier V_{dc1}^* is regulated at the rated value. The system responses are provided by Fig. 3. When $t = 0.5$ s, the active power of the converter station 2 decreases from 40 MW to 30 MW.

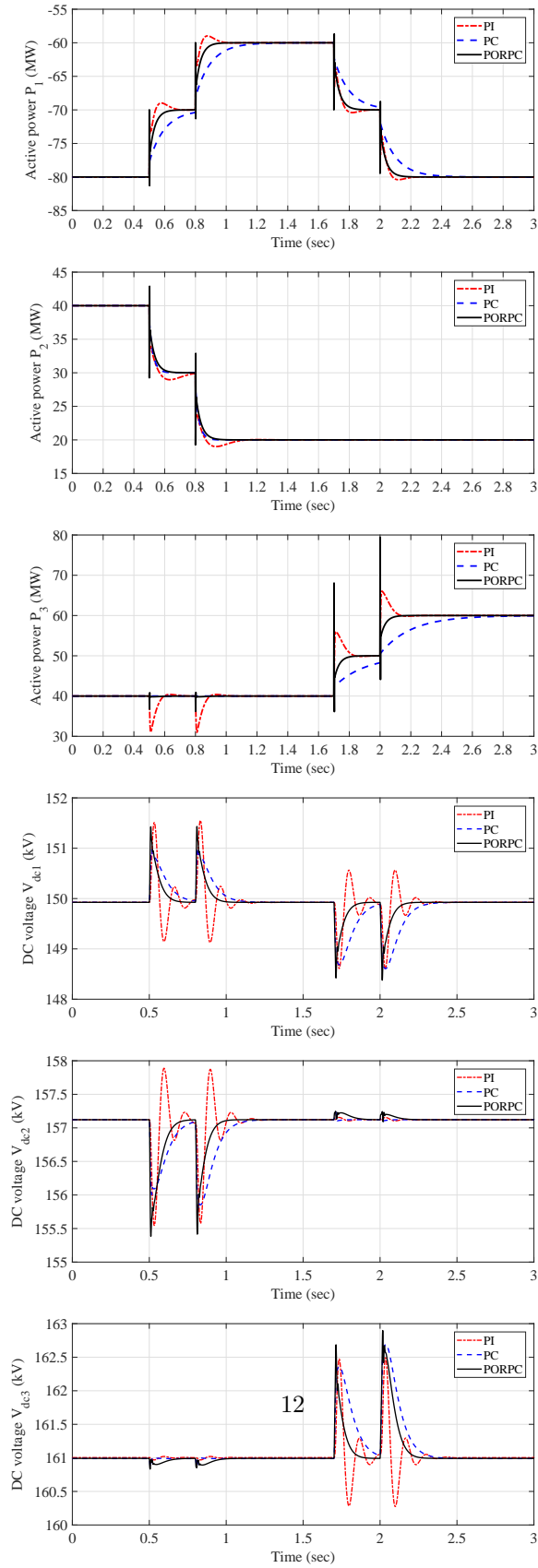


Figure 3: System responses obtained under normal operation condition.

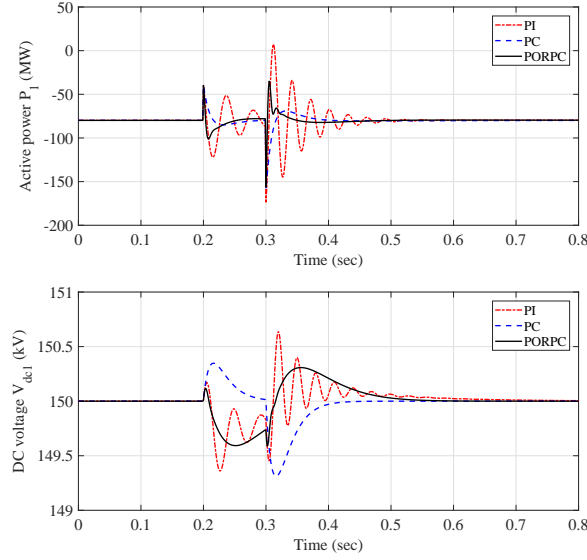


Figure 4: System responses obtained under the 10-cycle LLLG fault at AC bus 1.

Thus, the active power of the converter station 1 increases to -70 MW resulted from power balance. The converter stations 1 realizes the power balance and the DC voltage control. The active power is -80 MW initially. When $t = 0.8$ s, the active power of the converter station 2 decreases from 30 MW to 20 MW. Thus, the active power of the converter station 1 increases to -60 MW. When $t = 1.7$ s, the active power of the converter station 3 increased from 40 MW to 50 MW. Thus, the active power of the converter station 1 decreases to -70 MW. When $t = 2.0$ s, the active power of the converter station 3 decreased from 50 MW to 60 MW. Thus, the active power of the converter station 1 decreases to -80 MW.

From the above analysis, one can find that the overshoot of active and reactive power is completely eliminated by PC and PORPC compared to that of PI control, which is resulted from the full compensation of nonlinearities. Note that PORPC can achieve as satisfactory control performance as that of PC due to the real-time perturbation compensation, their tiny difference is caused by the estimation error when the power tracking starts.

4.2 10-cycle line-line-line-ground (LLLG) fault at AC buses

A 10-cycle LLLG fault occurs at AC bus 1 from 0.2 s to 0.3 s. Due to the fault, the voltage at AC bus 1 is decreased to a critical level. Fig. 4 shows that PORPC and PC can rapidly restore the system with less active power

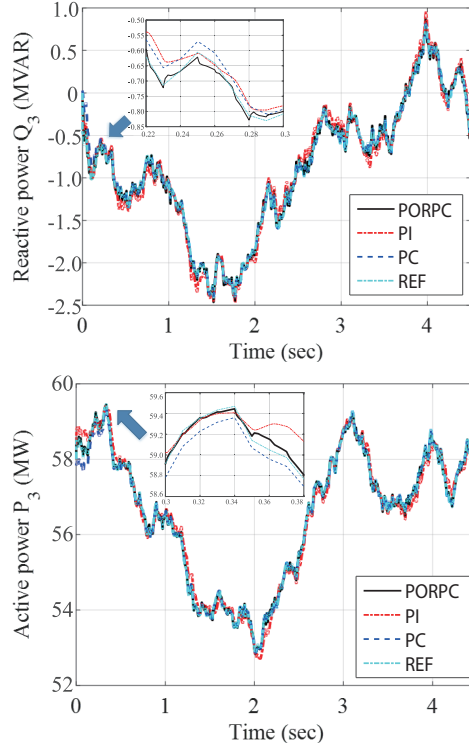


Figure 5: System responses obtained when an offshore wind farm is connected to the VSC-MTDC system.

oscillations than PI control. Thus, PORPC can effectively restore the disturbed VSC-MTDC system as an extra system damping is injected.

4.3 Offshore wind farm connection

In order to investigate the effect of the high percentage penetration of wind power [24, 25] into the VSC-MTDC system, AC network₃ is connected to an offshore wind farm. Under such framework, the power grid with offshore wind farm generate time-varying wind power variation which results in a fluctuated power flow at DC terminal. To study this circumstance, a wind speed oscillation occurs from 0 s to 4 s using auto-regressive and moving average (ARMA) time series models [26] is simulated. As illustrated in Fig. 5, it shows that PORPC can effectively track the active and reactive power. As PORPC does not need an accurate VSC-MTDC system model, an improved control performance can be achieved compared to that of other two methods.

311 4.4 Weak power grid connection

312 Weak power grids are generally defined by the following two aspects [27,28]: (1)
 313 Low effective short circuit ratio (ESCR) which means the impedance relative
 314 to the DC power is high, and (2) Low effective DC inertia constant H_{dc} which
 315 means the inertia of AC system is low. The ESCR is defined as $\frac{S-Q_c}{P_d}$ where
 316 S is the AC system three-phase symmetrical short-circuit level in MVA at the
 317 HVDC converter terminal at AC side. Here, P_d is the rated DC terminal power
 318 in MW, and Q_c is the value of three phase fundamental Mvar of all shunt filters
 319 and capacitor banks on the bus bar that are connected. The effective inertia
 320 constant H_{dc} is defined as $H \frac{S}{P_d}$ where H is conventional inertia constant of
 321 the machine in the AC grid [29]. The power grids with ESCR less than 2.5
 322 are defined as high impedance systems. The AC system with H_{dc} less 2 are
 323 defined as inadequate inertia system which has limited generation and cannot
 324 maintain the normal frequency deviation (less than 5%) [29]. This case attempts
 325 to investigate the system performance when the system is made progressively
 326 weaker by decreasing effective DC inertia constant and ESCR of the AC grid
 327 with reduction of H and increase of impedance of the grid, respectively. A
 328 strong power grid which ESCR equals 4.3 and H_{dc} equals 2.7, while a weak
 329 power grid which ESCR equals 2.1 and H_{dc} equals 1.7 are connected to terminal
 330 2 during simulation, respectively. The control performance of the test results
 331 are provided in Table 3.

332 4.5 Comparative studies

333 To compare the control performance of each schemes in all four cases, the inte-
 334 gral of absolute error (IAE) index is calculated and provided in Table 3. Here
 335 $IAE_{Q_1} = \int_0^T |Q_1 - Q_1^*| dt$, $IAE_{V_{dc1}} = \int_0^T |V_{dc1} - V_{dc1}^*| dt$, $IAE_{Q_2} = \int_0^T |Q_2 - Q_2^*| dt$,
 336 $IAE_{P_2} = \int_0^T |P_2 - P_2^*| dt$, $IAE_{Q_3} = \int_0^T |Q_3 - Q_3^*| dt$ and $IAE_{P_3} = \int_0^T |P_3 - P_3^*| dt$.
 337 The units of system variables are p.u.. The simulation time $T = 6$ s such that
 338 all system states can converge to the equilibrium point. Note that PORPC
 339 has a little bit higher IAE than PC under the nominal model due to the es-
 340 timation error, while PORPC has similar IAE compared to PI control in the
 341 presence of system parameter uncertainties. However, IAE_{Q_1} , $IAE_{V_{dc1}}$, IAE_{Q_2} ,
 342 IAE_{P_2} , IAE_{Q_3} and IAE_{P_3} of PORPC are only 15.93%, 4.68%, 13.69%, 12.87%,
 343 13.92% and 13.3% of that of PC. Furthermore, PORPC provides greater system
 344 damping as it has the lowest IAE when the 10-cycle LLLG fault at AC buses
 345 occurs. In particular, IAE_{Q_1} and $IAE_{V_{dc1}}$ of NAC are only 21.14% and 21.2% of
 346 those of PI control when the fault occurs at AC bus 1, while IAE_{Q_2} and IAE_{P_2}
 347 of PORPC are only 19.49% and 27.92% of those of PI control when the fault
 348 occurs at AC bus 2. Finally, the overall control efforts of different approaches
 349 are also presented, here $IAE_u = \int_0^T \sum_{i=0}^{n=3} (|u_{qi}| + |u_{di}|) dt$, one can find PORPC
 350 needs similar control efforts to that of PI control and PC but provides great
 351 robustness.

Table 3: IAE index of different control schemes

IAE index in VSC-HVDC			
Method \ Case	Power Regulation		
	PI	PC	PORPC
IAE _{Q₁}	4.18E-02	3.26E-02	3.49E-02
IAE _{V_{dc1}}	6.54E-03	5.16E-03	5.28E-03
IAE _{Q₂}	3.05E-02	2.41E-02	3.02E-02
IAE _{P₂}	3.80E-02	2.83E-02	3.03E-02
IAE _{Q₃}	3.07E-02	2.43E-02	2.99E-02
IAE _{P₃}	3.82E-02	2.89E-02	3.04E-02
IAE _u	2.68E-01	2.88E-01	3.10E-01
Method \ Case	10-cycle LLLG Fault		
	PI	PC	PORPC
IAE _{Q₁}	2.62E-01	1.13E-01	5.54E-02
IAE _{V_{dc1}}	1.75E-01	1.02E-01	3.71E-02
IAE _{Q₂}	3.53E-01	2.48E-01	6.88E-02
IAE _{P₂}	2.93E-01	3.07E-01	8.18E-02
IAE _{Q₃}	3.52E-01	2.47E-01	6.89E-02
IAE _{P₃}	2.92E-01	3.05E-01	8.19E-02
IAE _u	1.48E-01	1.11E-01	1.14E-01
Method \ Case	Offshore Wind Farm Connection		
	PI	PC	PORPC
IAE _{Q₃}	6.63E-02	6.84E-02	2.16E-02
IAE _{P₃}	7.67E-02	1.04E-01	1.27E-02
IAE _u	3.32E-02	2.99E-02	3.15E-02
Method \ Case	Strong Power Grid Connection		
	PI	PC	PORPC
IAE _{Q₂}	5.13E-02	4.86E-02	2.62E-02
IAE _{P₂}	5.71E-02	2.85E-01	2.17E-02
IAE _u	2.92E-02	2.89E-02	2.35E-02
Method \ Case	Weak Power Grid Connection		
	PI	PC	PORPC
IAE _{Q₂}	7.15E-02	6.46E-02	7.23E-02
IAE _{P₂}	8.91E-02	3.24E-01	4.73E-02
IAE _u	4.02E-02	4.19E-02	3.67E-02



Figure 6: The experiment platform of the HIL test.

5 Hardware-in-the-loop Test

A dSPACE simulator based HIL real-time implementation test is carried out to test the implementation feasibility of PORPC, while the experiment platform is demonstrated in Fig. 6. The whole system is modelled with multiple sampling rates. The time resolution of the gating signals of industrial controllers is normally a few microseconds [30] which is far bigger than real-time simulation sampling steps. The rectifier controller (15) and inverter controller (24) are implemented on one DSP board (dSPACE DS1104) with a sampling frequency $f_c = 0.5$ kHz, and the VSC-MTDC system is simulated on another dSPACE platform (DS1006 board) with the limit sampling frequency $f_s = 50$ kHz to make HIL simulator as close to the real plant as possible. The measurements of the reactive power Q_1 , DC voltage V_{dc1} , active power P_2 , reactive power Q_2 , active power P_3 and reactive power Q_3 are obtained from the real-time simulation of the VSC-MTDC system on the DS1006 board, which are sent to three controllers implemented on another DSP (dSPACE DS1104) board for the control outputs calculation.

5.1 HIL test: power regulation

The references of active power of converter 2 changes at $t = 0.3$ s, $t = 0.6$ s and finally decreases to 20 MW. Meanwhile, the reference of active power of converter 3 changes at $t = 1.9$ s, $t = 2.2$ s and finally increases to 60 MW, while DC voltage is regulated at the rated value $V_{dc1}^* = 150$ kV as similar as case studies investigated in section 4. The system responses of HIL test and simulation are compared by Fig. 7, which shows HIL test results have almost the same performance as that of the simulation results. Note that when the

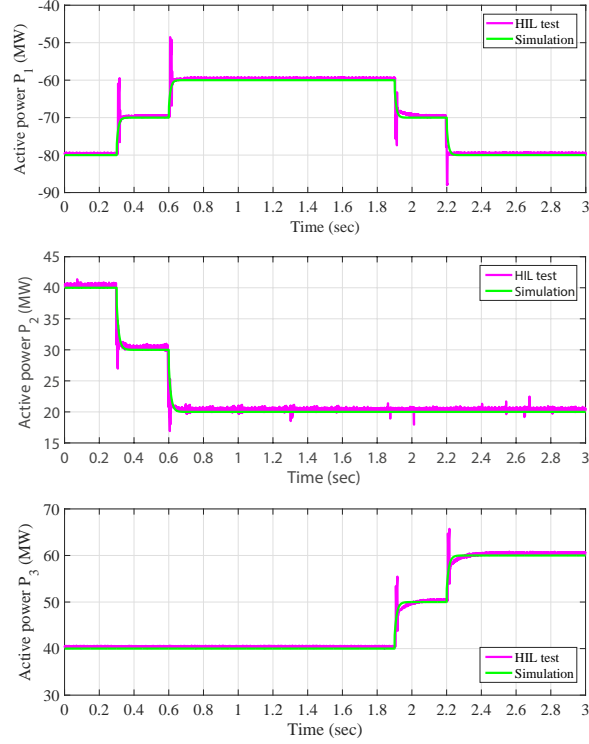


Figure 7: HIL test results of system responses obtained under the normal operation condition.

active power of the converter station 2 changes such as at 0.3s, the active power of the converter station 2 decreases from 40 MW to 30 MW, the active power of the converter station 1 increases to -70 MW rapidly with some unavoidable propagated overshoot to keep the power balance.

5.2 HIL test: 10-cycle line-line-line-ground (LLLG) fault at AC bus 1.

A 10-cycle LLLG fault occurs at AC bus 1 when $t = 0.1$ s. Fig. 8 demonstrates that the disturbed system can be rapidly restored as expected in section 4. The system responses obtained by the HIL test is similar to that of simulation results with some communication glitches. Note that there is only tiny difference between simulation result and HIL test result in V_{dc1} caused by the measurement noise (less than 0.34%).

Remark 1. The difference between the simulation and HIL test demonstrated in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 is mainly resulted from the following three reasons: (i) Some measurement disturbances exist in HIL test which are not regarded

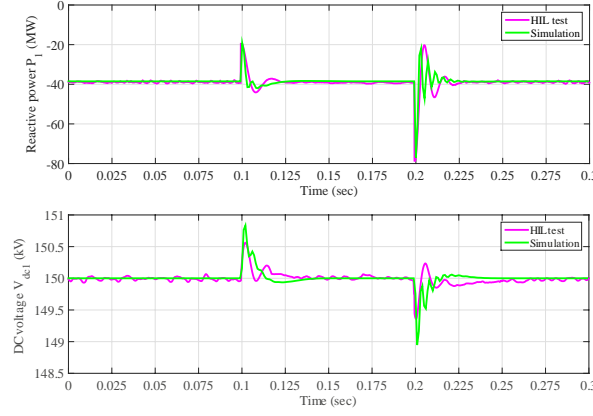


Figure 8: HIL test results of system responses obtained under the 10-cycle LLLG fault at AC bus 1.

in the simulation, a filter can be applied to remove it and improve the control performance; (ii) The sampling holding and discretization of HIL test might introduce additional errors compared to the continuous control in the simulation; and (iii) The existence of time delay of the real-time controller, whose exact value is unlikely to obtain. A time delay $\tau = 2$ ms is assumed in the simulation.

6 Conclusions

This paper develops a PORPC for the VSC-MTDC system with integrated offshore wind farm to improve the robustness against power fluctuation, system disturbances. The main conclusions can be summarized as the following three points:

- (a) The combinatorial effect of system nonlinearities, parameter uncertainties, unmodelled dynamics and external disturbances, e.g., grid faults and time-varying wind power output, is aggregated into a perturbation, which is fully estimated by PO and compensated by PORPC, such that a considerable robustness and improved system damping with reasonably low control efforts can be simultaneously achieved via passification;
- (b) PORPC does not require an accurate VSC-MTDC system model and only the reactive power and active power at inverter side, while DC voltage and reactive power at rectifier side need to be measured. Besides, a DC link voltage droop controller is employed to greatly improve the immediate response to the grid unbalanced conditions. Future study will be focused on employing optimization algorithms, e.g., genetic algorithm (GA) or particle swarm optimization (PSO), to optimize the parameters selection procedure of PORPC;
- (c) Four case studies have been undertaken to evaluate the control performance

of the proposed approach, including power regulation, AC bus fault, offshore wind farm integration, and weak power grids connection, respectively. Simulation results verify that PORPC can maintain consistent control performance and provide significant robustness under various operation conditions of VSC-MTDC with wind farm integration. Moreover, an HIL test has been carried out through dSPACE simulator which validates the implementation feasibility of the proposed scheme.

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